

1. A camera apparatus control system comprising:

a camera apparatus capable of being operated via a network in operation which is at least one of panning, tilting and zooming of the camera apparatus; and

managing means for managing the operation on the basis of first and second management information stored in a table where the first management information indicates limitation information relating to the operation for each user and the second management information indicates whether or not the camera apparatus is operated by a user,

wherein said managing means permits a user, who is not limited from performing operation via the network by the first management information, to operate the camera apparatus and receive a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is not being operated by another user,

and said managing means prohibits the user to operate the camera apparatus, and permits the user to have access to the camera apparatus for receiving a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is operated via the network by another user.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein one of a first mode in which all operations of said camera apparatus is permitted, a second mode in which all the operations are inhibited, and a third mode in which the operations are permitted within a predetermined range can be set by the first management information for each user.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of different operation ranges can be set in the third mode.

4. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

control means for controlling an action of said camera apparatus and
instructing said managing means to enter or delete registration of said camera apparatus in or
from the first management information; and

operation limiting means for instructing said managing means to update the
limitation information of a camera apparatus to be controlled by said control means.

5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising:

operating means for requesting said control means to permit an operation of
said camera apparatus via said network in accordance with designation from a user and
management by said managing means.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said operating means can obtain
registration information indicating a registration state of a camera apparatus contained in the
first management information via said network.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein said operating means can instruct
said managing means via said network to change an access right of a user to a camera
apparatus registered in the registration information.

8. A control method for a camera apparatus capable of being operated via a
network, comprising the steps of:

setting first limitation information for limiting operation via the network of the
camera apparatus for each user where the operation is at least one of panning, tilting and
zooming of the camera apparatus;

setting second limitation information for indicating whether or not the camera
apparatus is operated by a user; and

managing the operation by a user who receives a current image acquired by the

camera apparatus on the basis of the set first and second limitation information,

wherein in the managing step, one of the user, who is not limited from performing operation via the network by the first limitation information, can obtain permission to operate the camera apparatus and receive a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second limitation information indicates that the camera apparatus is not being operated by another user,

and in the managing step, the one of the user can not obtain permission to operate the camera apparatus and can obtain permission to have access to the camera apparatus for receiving a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is operated via the network by the another user.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

requesting remote operation of the camera apparatus via the network in accordance with a designation from the user and the management information; and

controlling an action of the camera apparatus on the basis of the requested remote operation and the set first limitation information.

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

acquiring the first limitation information for the camera apparatus via the network; and changing the first limitation information of the camera apparatus via the network.

11. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

control means for controlling an action of the camera apparatus and instructing said managing means to enter or delete registration of said camera apparatus in or from the first management information; and

operating means for requesting said control means to permit remote operation of the camera apparatus via the network in accordance with a designation from a user and the management information.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said operating means is also for obtaining registration information indicating a registration state of a camera apparatus contained in the management information via the network, and for instructing said managing means via the network to change the first management information of the registered camera apparatus to change the limitation information.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein when a plurality of camera apparatuses are connected to a terminal connected to the network, the plurality of camera apparatuses can be grouped and the first limitation information can be set in units of groups.

14. The method according to claim 8, wherein the first limitation information is set for each user of a terminal connected to the network.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the users can be grouped and the first limitation information can be set in units of groups.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of access modes having different first limitation information can be set and one of the plurality of access modes can be selected for the user group.

17. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first management information contains providing information which indicates permission/prohibition for receiving an image provided by the camera apparatus for each user, and said managing means manages sending an image provided by the camera apparatus to the user based on the providing information.

18. The system according to claim 1, wherein the first management information

contains providing information which indicates permission/prohibition for receiving sound provided by a microphone equipped for the camera apparatus for each user, and said managing means manages sending sound provided by the microphone to the user based on the providing information.

19. A control system controlling a camera apparatus which is operated via a network where the operation is at least one of panning, tilting and zooming of the camera apparatus, comprising:

output means for outputting a current image acquired by the camera apparatus to at least one user via the network;

managing means for managing first and second management information stored in a table where the first management information defines limits of the operation for each user and the second management information indicates whether or not the camera apparatus is operated by a user; and

control means for controlling an action of the camera apparatus within the limits of the operation via the network corresponding to the user who receives the current image and requires the operation,

wherein said control means permits a user, who is not limited from performing operation by the first management information, to operate the camera apparatus and receive the current image if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is not being operated by another user,

and said control means prohibits the user to operate the camera apparatus, and permits the user to have access to the camera apparatus for receiving the current image if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is operated via the

network by another user.

20. A control apparatus controlling a camera comprising:

control means for controlling an action of a connected camera based on a received signal which requires operation of the connected camera through a network where the operation is at least one of panning, tilting and zooming, and

managing means for managing the action of the connected camera based on first and second management information stored in a table where the first management information indicates limitation of the operation for each user and the second management information indicates whether or not the camera apparatus is operated by a user,

wherein said managing means permits a user, who is not limited from performing operation via the network by the first management information, to operate the camera apparatus and receive a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is not being operated by another user,

and said managing means prohibits the user to operate the camera apparatus, and permits the user to have access to the camera apparatus for receiving a current image acquired by the camera apparatus if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is operated via the network by another user.

21. A control apparatus controlling a camera comprising:

control means for controlling an action of a connected camera based on a received signal which requires operation of the connected camera through a network, the operation being at least one of panning, tilting and zooming;

output means for outputting a current image acquired by the connected camera

to at least one user via the network;

managing means for managing first and second management information stored in a table where the first management information defines limits of the operation for each user and the second management information indicates whether or not the connected camera is operated by a user; and

control means for controlling an action of the connected camera within the limits of the operation via the network corresponding to the user who receives the current image and requires the operation,

wherein said control means permits a user, who is not limited from performing operation by the first management information, to operate the connected camera and receive the current image if the second management information indicates that the connected camera is not being operated by another user,

and said control means prohibits the user to operate the camera, and permits the user to have access to the camera for receiving the current image if the second management information indicates that the camera is operated via the network by another user.

22. A control method for a camera apparatus which is operated via a network where the operation is at least one of panning, tilting and zooming of the camera apparatus, comprising the step of:

outputting a current image acquired by the camera apparatus to at least one user via the network;

managing first and second management information stored in a table where the first management information defines limits of the operation for each user and the second

management information indicates whether or not the camera apparatus is operated by a user,
and

controlling an action of the camera apparatus within the limits of the operation
via the network corresponding to the user who receives the current image and requires the
operation,

wherein in the controlling step, a user, who is not limited from performing
operation by the first management information, is permitted to operate the camera apparatus
and receive the current image if the second management information indicates that the camera
apparatus is not being operated by another user, and the user is prohibited to operate the
camera apparatus, and is permitted to have access to the camera apparatus for receiving the
current image if the second management information indicates that the camera apparatus is
operated via the network by another user.